

REMARKS:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims **12-18, 25** and **26** have been canceled without prejudice. Claims **19, 22** and **23** have been amended to put them in independent form and to correct minor grammatical errors. The Applicants submit that these amendments do not change the scope of the claims as originally filed. New claims **31-38** depend from claim **22** and recite features formerly in claims **12-18, 25** and **26**. As such, no new matter has been entered with these amendments. Furthermore, these amendments do not narrow the scope of any claim within the meaning of the decision in the *Festo* case.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims **1-11** and **27-30**. The Examiner has also indicated that claims **19-24** would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims **19-24**. The Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 USC 102

Claims **12-18, 25** and **26** have been rejected as being anticipated by US Patent 5,388,174 to Roll et al., (hereinafter, Roll). In rejecting the claims, the Examiner states that Roll discloses, in Fig. 6, an apparatus for aligning one or more waveguides to one or more optical devices comprising a carrier (37) having one or more through holes (41), the carrier being adapted to receive one or more waveguides (32); one or more plugs (40, 42), each of which is sized to be received in one or more of the through holes (41, 43). The Examiner further states that, with regard to claims **12-18** and **25-26**, Roll discloses all of the claimed invention in Fig. 6, col. 2, lines 6-12 and col. 4, lines 25-28.

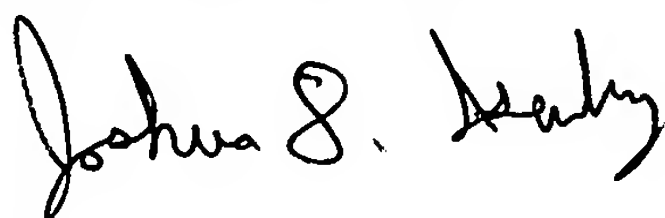
The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Claims **19, 22** and **23** have been amended to put them in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. As such, for the reasons set forth by the Examiner, the Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as they presently stand.

Furthermore, dependent claims **20-21** depend from claim **19** and recites additional features therefor. Dependent claim **24** depends from claim **23** and recites additional features therefor. Newly added dependent claims **31-38** depend from claim **22** and recite additional features therefor. As such, and for the same reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that these
5 dependent claims define an invention suitable for patent protection.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that all claims are allowable over the cited art and define an invention suitable for patent protection. The Applicants therefore respectfully
10 request that the Examiner enter the amendment, reconsider the application, and issue a Notice of Allowance in the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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